



#1713 (123)
3/27/03

Atty. Docket No.: 22620/1222

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Murchie, et al.
Serial No.: 09/839,649
Filed: April 19, 2001
Entitled: "Assay for Identification of a Test Compound"

Examiner: S. Chunduru

Group Art Unit: 1637

Conf. No.: 2120

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

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Mary Wilson

Name of Person Mailing Paper

Signature of Person Mailing Paper

Box: AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed November 19, 2002 in the above-noted U.S. Patent Application. Kindly enter the following proposed Amendments and Remarks.

In the Claims:

Please replace claim 1 with the following amended claim 1.

1. (Amended) A method for determining whether a test compound binds to a target RNA, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting said test compound with said target RNA and an RNA-modifying enzyme that covalently alters an existing base in said target RNA; and

(b) detecting the modification of said target RNA by said enzyme and comparing the amount of modification detected to that of a standard, wherein said comparing determines whether said test compound binds to said target RNA.



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TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified patent application, please find the following documents:

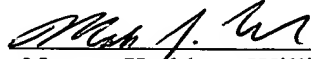
1. Response to Final Office Action mailed November 19, 2002;
2. Petition for One Months' Extension of Time;
3. Check in the amount of \$55.00 for the requisite fee; and
4. Return Post Card.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment in the total fees to Deposit Account No. 16-0085, Reference No. 22620/1222.

A duplicate of this transmittal letter is enclosed for this purpose.

Date: March 17, 2003

Respectfully submitted,


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Mark J. FitzGerald
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Kathleen Williams

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